

REMARKS

Claims 27-29 are pending in the application and have been amended. No new matter is presented.

Claims 27-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humphrey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,992,000) in view of Herklotz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,264,688). Applicant respectfully traverses. Claim 27 of the present application has been amended to more clearly define the relationship of the undulating link with respect to the longitudinal axis of the stent. Specifically, method claim 27 now reads in pertinent part "at least one undulating link attaching each cylindrical ring to an adjacent cylindrical ring, the undulating links having a curved portion and a pair of straight portions which extend transverse to the stent longitudinal axis." Further, claim 27 has been amended so that the pair of straight portions remain transverse to the stent longitudinal axis as the stent is being compressed and crimped onto the expandable member.

Herklotz et al. discloses undulating links, however, the straight portions connecting the undulations of the links are at an angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the stent. Accordingly, when the stent of Herklotz is crimped or compressed onto the balloon portion of the catheter, the angled straight portion, which connects the undulations, remains at an angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the stent. As set forth in the claims of the present application, the straight portions are transverse to the stent longitudinal axis, and remain transverse to the longitudinal axis after the stent is compressed onto the expandable member. Accordingly, claim 27, and dependent claims 28 and 29, are patentably distinguishable over the Herklotz et al. patent. Further, the Humphrey et al. patent teaches crimping, but does not teach or suggest a particular stent structure. It is respectfully urged that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinguishable over the cited art and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 27-29 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is requested. If a telephone conference would in any way facilitate prosecution of the application, the undersigned can be reached at (310) 824-5555.

Respectfully submitted,

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